



band process means for processing a band generated  
by said band generation means; and

wherein at least one of said document process means, said page process means and said band process means executes the process according to the formats of input data and output data in said document process means, said page process means and said band process means.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said  
20 binder management means processes a binder constituted  
by at least a document.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
5 job management means processes the number of output  
copies and the order of output (collation).

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11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said document management means processes a finishing

operation including at least one of stapled sorting,  
shift sorting and rotated sorting.

12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each  
5 of said job management means, said binder management  
means and said document management means is capable of  
processing a finishing operation including at least one  
of stapled sorting, shift sorting and rotated sorting,  
and management means designated for finishing among  
10 said job management means, said binder management means  
and said document management means generates an output  
document constituting the output address for said  
document process means, said page process means or said  
band process means.

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13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein,  
plural management means are designated for finishing,  
such designation is analyzed in the order of said job  
management means, said binder management means and said  
20 document management means and the designation of  
finishing is rendered effective only in the management  
means of the highest rank among the management means  
designated for finishing, whereby said management means  
of the highest rank generates said output document  
25 while the designation of finishing is rendered  
ineffective for the management means positioned in the  
lower ranks than said management means of the highest



a band process step of processing a band generated  
5 by said band generation step; and

10            wherein at least one of said document process step,  
said page process step and said band process step  
executes the process according to the formats of input  
data and output data in said document process step,  
said page process step and said band process step.

20           a code of a process analysis step of analyzing a  
process transmitted from said information processing  
apparatus;

a code of a job process means including a job  
management step of managing information constituting a

job, a binder management step of managing information constituting a binder and a document management step of managing information constituting a document, and adapted to process the job generated by said job generation step;

a code of a document generation step of dividing the job generated by said job generation step into a smaller document unit thereby generating a document;

a code of a document process step of processing a document generated by said document generation step;

a code of a page generation step of dividing the document generated by said document generation step into a smaller page unit thereby generating a page;

a code of a page process step of processing a page generated by said page generation step;

a code of a band generation step of dividing the page generated by said page generation step into a smaller band unit thereby generating a band;

a code of a band process step of processing a band generated by said band generation step; and

a code of a device use request arbitration step of arbitrating the requests for using a device from said document generation step, said document process step, said page process step and said band process step;

wherein at least one of the code of said document process step, the code of said page process step and the code of said band process step executes the process





page generation means for generating plural pages  
based on the document generated by said document  
generation means;

10      <sup>18.</sup>  
         ~~19.~~      An apparatus according to claim 18, further  
         comprising:

15 wherein said assignment means assigns the band  
generated by said band generation means to the device  
determined by said determination means.

a reception step of receiving process information from said information processing apparatus;

a job generation step of generating a job based on the process information received by said reception step;

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binders based the job generated by said job generation step;

a document generation step of generating plural documents based on the binder generated by said binder generation step;

a determination step of determining a device to be used, among plural device provided in said image forming apparatus, based on the process information received by said reception step; and

an assignment step of assigning the document generated by said document generation step to the device determined by said determination step.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~21.~~ A computer program to be executed by a computer of an image forming apparatus capable of communicating with an information processing apparatus, the program comprising:

a reception step of receiving process information from said information processing apparatus;

a job generation step of generating a job based on the process information received by said reception step;

a binder generation step of generating plural binders based the job generated by said job generation step;

a document generation step of generating plural documents based on the binder generated by said binder

a determination step of determining a device to be used, among plural device provided in said image forming apparatus, based on the process information received by said reception step; and

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reception means for receiving process information  
from said information processing apparatus;

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determination means for determining a device to be used, among plural device provided in said image forming apparatus, based on the process information received by said reception means; and

[illegible]

John A

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10            job generation means for generating a job based on  
the process information received by said reception  
means;

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20           assignment means for assigning the instance  
generated by said generation means to the device  
determined by said determination means.